

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

FSA UPDATE

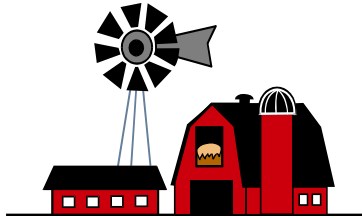
FARM SERVICE AGENCY
501 STATE ST
PO BOX 368
WESTMORELAND, KS 66549

PHONE: 785-457-3661
FAX: 785-457-2868

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

/s/ Lance W. Grutzmacher

Lance W. Grutzmacher
County Executive Director



February 2006

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jonathan E. Berges
William J. Budenbender
Clara M. Ebert

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Second Tuesday each month

DCP SIGN-UP

Producers are required to renew Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) contracts annually.

Sign-up for 2006 is underway and continues until June 1, 2006. The Direct Payment is a guaranteed payment and 50% of it may be requested in advance anytime from now through September, with the final payment being issued in October.

Advance payments are also available for the Counter-cyclical payment (CC), which is not a guaranteed payment. The CC advance is based on projected prices. If the final payment is determined less than the projected payment, a refund would be required. The advance CC payment may be requested in two advances – the first to be issued around harvest (July & October) and the second to be issued the following February. The final CC payment is issued at the end of the marketing year, or the following July & October.

When you sign the CCC-509, you are agreeing to: comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land; devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use; effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices; not plant perennial fruits and vegetables or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres; file acreage report with respect to all cropland on the farm; and notify the county office when there is a transfer of or change of interest of a producer.

COC ELECTION

The County Committee (COC) election for Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 was held in December. William Budenbender was elected to the COC and Darrel Stelter was elected first alternate. We would

like to express our gratitude to both for their willingness to help FSA administer the numerous farm programs.

We would also like to send a special “*thanks*” to Loren Abitz for his 6 years of service on the COC.

CRP REX

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring in October of 2007 through 2010 will have an opportunity for Re-enrollments and Extensions (REX). By February 13, 2006, letters will be sent to producers receiving a share in the contracts that expire in October of 2007. Eligible producers must notify our office of their intentions **by April 14, 2006**.

Your intent to participate is recorded when a compliance fee of \$45 plus \$1 per acre is paid.

If the evaluation points on your existing contract are in the 81% to 100% category you may re-enroll for 10 years. If your points are below the 81% category you may extend your existing contract as follows: 61%-80% = 5 years, 41%-60% = 4 years, 21%-40% = 3 years, and 0%-20% = 2 years.

Before your re-enrollment or extension can be approved, a field visit will be made to determine that your approved cover is being maintained. Some of the common violations are trees or brush in a grass planting, trails, and bales or equipment stored on CRP.

CRP HAY & GRAZE CHANGE

There has been a change in that you cannot complete a management practice during the last three years of the contract. Some management practices used in this county are haying, grazing, and light disking.

If your contract expires in 2006, 2007, or 2008 you will *not* be able to hay or graze this summer.

CRP CONTINUOUS SIGN-UP

There is an on going sign-up for small areas, like filter strips, new waterways, quail habitat buffers, etc. You can come in anytime and sign up. Due to their small acreage, these practices have different incentives to encourage enrollment.

CRP GENERAL SIGN-UP

A news release has informed us that a general sign-up for new CRP will be held from March 27, 2006 through April 14, 2006. If you have some cropland you would like to enter into CRP, or have a contract that will expire this coming October, visit with us for more details.

NOTE – With DCP sign-up, 244 CRP contracts expiring in 2007 that will be looking into REX, and a General CRP sign-up all going on at the same time....PLEASE....call for an appointment!

REPORT ACREAGE

Small grain acreage must be reported by June 1st and all other crops including CRP by August 1, 2006. We are unable to send you a reminder notice. If you forget, a late file fee must be paid.

GRAZE-OUT PAYMENTS

Loan deficiency payments are available for wheat, barley, oats, and triticale that is grazed out. To be eligible you must report the acreage the earlier of June 1 or before it is grazed out. Then, after the first mechanical harvest date for each crop and before March 31, 2007 you must come in and request your payment which is based on the LDP rate in effect for that day. If you later bale the crop, that acreage is not eligible for the graze-out program LDP payment.

NAP

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) is available for agricultural crops produced for food or fiber that are not insured by crop insurance in the county. Interested producers must complete an Application for Coverage (CCC-471) and pay the applicable service fee by the applicable sales closing date for the specific crop. Administrative service fees are collected in order to help offset the cost of implementing the program and range from \$100 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county with a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers.

There are 3 sales closing dates in this area for next years crops: September 1 – small grains, Christmas trees, turf grass sod, etc. December 1 – all grass, alfalfa, grapes, mixed forage, etc. March 15 – forage sorghum, vegetables, melons, etc. If you are interested in NAP, contact us for more details.

LOANS & LDPs

The final date to request a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) on 2005-crop wheat and oats is March 31, 2006, and 2005-crop feed grains is May 31, 2006.

For 2006 crops, we are trying to obtain signatures on Page 1 of the CCC-633EZ LDP form when you sign up in the DCP program. Make sure you have signed a 2006 CCC-633EZ, Page 1 before you lose beneficial interest in the crop. Wool producers should have Page 1 signed by now.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.